

Prayer for Vocations:

Loving and generous God, we are your people, the work of your hands. Jesus calls us to heal the broken-hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn, to give hope to those who despair, and to rejoice in your steadfast love.

Grant to us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's Mission of love and justice.

Bless the Church of the Diocese of Motherwell by raising up dedicated leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as priests.

Inspire us to know you better and open our hearts to hear your call.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We pray for the Sick:

We remember all of those who have died recently: Annie Mundie; Sr Jarlath; Denis Critchley-Salmonson.

We pray for the Month's Mind & Anniversary of: Harry Duddy; Tommy Oliver; John Dempsey; Maria Selva.



Parish Information

Celebrating the Sacraments

Baptism: by arrangement with the Parish Priest. In line with Diocesan policy, there is a preparation meeting for the celebration of this Sacrament.

Marriage: in line with Diocesan policy, a minimum of six months notice must be given, during which all couples will be expected to participate in Preparation Meetings for their celebration.

Anointing of the Sick: on request. Anyone with a planned stay in hospital, should arrange to celebrate this Sacrament before going into hospital.

St Mary's Clubrooms: For bookings contact: clubrooms@outlook.com or call 01555 662234

Contact us:

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Parish Priest: Fr. Jim Thomson



St. Mary's Church, Lanark

3rd Sunday of Lent (C)

24th March 2019

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS Lent is a time of Penance. We often associate that with giving up something, doing something that we find difficult in order to master ourselves. It all has to do with freedom to direct our lives in a way that leads towards God. and trying to turn towards him. Conversion is another name for the process.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Gen 3:1-5.13-15). God shows himself to Moses and changes the direction of his life dramatically.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love.

Second Reading (1 Cor 10:1-6.10-12). Paul exhorts his converts to be vigilant in their way of life and not to be complacent in their gifts.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel (Lk 13:1-9). Jesus points out that the present is always the right moment for conversion.

Think Vocations "I AM has sent me to you." Could the Lord be calling you to proclaim His name as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call your diocesan Vocations Director or contact www.priestsforScotland.org.uk

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:	8.30am School & 9.30am (Church) Mass
Tuesday:	8.30am School & 9.30am (Church) Service 12.00noon Stations of the Cross
Wednesday:	8.30am School & 9.30am (Church) Mass
Thursday:	8.30am School & 9.30am (Church) Service 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
Friday:	8.30am School & 9.30am (Church) Mass 12.00noon Stations of the Cross
Saturday:	9.30am Mass

SUNDAY MASS TIMES:

Saturday Vigil Mass : 5.00pm
Sunday: 10.30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday: after 9.30am Mass;
4.30pm - 4.50pm; and on request.



St. Mary's Gazette

FAITH IN FOCUS: LAST CHANCE SALOON?

I always meant to sort out that kitchen shelf and now that it's crashed to the floor with all the crockery it's too late. The same goes for that little chip in the windscreen that now looks like a spider's web, and of course there's that faulty old plug on the TV set which probably caused last night's loud explosion during Coronation Street!

We love to put things off. Yes, we'll get round to them some day but at the moment I'm a bit tired, a bit busy or a bit too distracted to do anything about them. There's always tomorrow.

In today's gospel, one of the most frightening episodes according to many people, Jesus issues a real warning. Don't think that you can put off repentance until tomorrow because repentance is a "now-thing" and, what's more, you never know what's lurking around the corner. He reminds his listeners of two awful events that had just taken place in and around Jerusalem: a murderous attack on worshippers in the Temple, and a disaster that killed eighteen people when a building collapsed on them. Do you think these people had any idea they wouldn't return home that day, says Jesus, and do you think they were more guilty than anyone else? Of course not. Then, he tells them, you too must repent now or you will perish like they did.

Lent reminds us that repentance is not a once-and-for-all action; we don't make a grand act of repentance and then sit back and relax. Repentance is a constant activity of the Christian, not continually worrying about our stance before God, but striving all the time to be as close to God as we can by the way we treat other people. Repentance means taking a regular reality check that what we are doing and saying is consistent with our desire to belong to God's family. And although we concentrate on repentance a great deal in Lent, it is something that should be a daily activity for all of us, and we need to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit to be able to repent.

Is there something in your life that niggles at you? Something that you know you should do something about which will improve your quality of life with God and with others? Well, don't worry about it; you can always do something about it tomorrow, after Easter, in the summer or in the run-up to Christmas.... Or perhaps not!

Many Thanks from Lanark Celtic Supporters Club

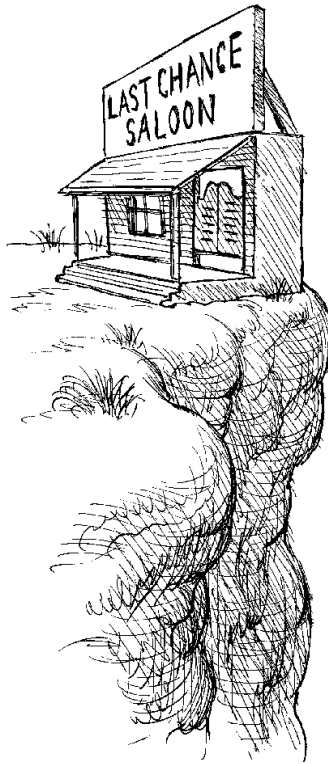
The Fundraiser on Saturday 16th March in the Clubrooms gave £400 donation to St Mary's Church. Many thanks to all who supported this and to the Bar Staff on the night.

Many Thanks!

Thank you to all who supported the Prize Bingo on Friday night and to all who helped on the night.

Lenten Reconciliation Service with Individual Confession

This Service will take place on the Wednesday of Holy Week (17th April) at 7.00pm. Please put this in your diary so that you can take the opportunity to receive the forgiveness of God in this Sacrament.



What's on @ St. Mary's

Church Collections

17.03.19	£1401	£750 to Diocese of Motherwell	£651 left to the Parish
300 Club Winner		Margaret Donnachie	No. 269

2nd Collection this Weekend - Sick & Retired Priests

The 2nd Collection this weekend is for the needs of the Diocese to help support our sick and retired priests. Please be generous.

Next Weekend - SCIAF Sunday

There will be a 2nd Collection next weekend to support the work of SCIAF - the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland.

Food Bank

Any donations for the Food Bank will be gratefully received next weekend.

Holy Mass for the Sick and Housebound

Holy Mass, during which the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered, will be celebrated on Thursday 4th April at 12.00noon. After Holy Mass some refreshments will be served in the Club Rooms. Anyone needing transport to the Church is asked to contact a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society or Fr Jim.

Christian Aid Lenten Lunches

On Thursdays between 12.00 - 2.00pm in St Nicholas Church Hall.

The Catholic App

"The Catholic App" is your smart Catholic companion that helps you find Mass, Confession, churches, online parish communities and more. It covers the whole diocese and works in English, Polish, French, Italian, German and Spanish. You can download it for iPhone/iPad or Android by searching for "The Catholic App, Musemantik" in the Apple App Store or Google Play. Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/catholicapp/

Dog Fouling

It has been noticed by some Parishioners that the grounds of the Church are being used by dog walkers to exercise their animals and use the grounds as a toilet. This is not acceptable! As well as concern for those who keep our grounds in an attractive condition, it is hoped that we will use the grounds for an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Palm Sunday. This will not be possible if the dog fouling continues as this would pose a health risk to our young people. If you see anyone using the grounds to exercise their dogs, please ask them to stop and also to clean up any mess.

Easter Raffle

Please take some books of raffle tickets to sell to family & friends. Tickets cost £1, 1st prize is £100 cash; 2nd prize is £30 Morrison's vouchers and there a number of other great prizes! The draw will take place at the Coffee Morning after 10.30am Mass on Palm Sunday. Please return counterfoils and money to the box at the back of the church.



Items for inclusion in St. Mary's Gazette should be handed into the Presbytery in writing by Thursday.